

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the cloning, 5 sequencing and expression of homologous immunoreactive 28-kDa protein genes, *p28-1, -2, -3, -5, -6, -7, -9*, from a polymorphic multiple gene family of *Ehrlichia canis*. Further disclosed is a multigene locus encoding all nine homologous 28-kDa protein genes 10 of *Ehrlichia canis*. Recombinant *Ehrlichia canis* 28-kDa proteins react with convalescent phase antiserum from an *E. canis*-infected dog, and may be useful in the development of vaccines and serodiagnosis that are particularly effective for disease prevention and serodiagnosis.